

Security Information

BASIC INTELLIGENCE COURSE

The Basic Intelligence Course, offered by the Office of Training, is designed as the first stage in the post-entry training of new professional employees of the Agency. Its purpose is to instruct these employees in the fundamentals of intelligence work and thereby provide the Offices of CIA with personnel equipped to receive on-the-job training and capable of quickly becoming producing members of their organizational units. The course covers three principal subjects:

I. The Principles, Methods, and Practices of Intelligence.

II. Intelligence and National Security.

III. The World Situation, with Emphasis on the Theory and Practice of Communism and the USSR.

The course is conducted by lectures given by members of the training staff and by specially qualified speakers; by discussion periods under the guidance of the staff; by assigned readings, and by problems and projects designed to give training and practice in such intelligence methods as research, analysis, report-writing, and the preparation of material for various types of intelligence production. A major project is the preparation by each trainee of a country estimate. This work involves training in research methods, the analysis and synthesis of information, and the presentation, using maps and other aids, of a report bringing out the strategic importance of the country.

Throughout the course emphasis is placed on thinking in intelligence terms and on the importance of the trainees' adapting their previous training, skills and talents to the requirements of intelligence work. Clarity,

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accuracy, and conciseness in both oral and written presentation are stressed.

Each trainee takes a reading improvement course to increase his reading speed and comprehension.

The 240 hours of the six weeks' course are distributed as follows:

Lectures	36 hours
Discussion periods	30 hours
Trainee problems and projects	11½ hours
Study and conference periods	30 hours
Reading Improvement Course	30 hours
	240 hours

Of the total time, approximately 65 percent is devoted to the Principles, Methods, and Practices of Intelligence, including the assigned Problems and Projects; 10 percent to Intelligence and National Security; 12½ percent to the World Situation, and 12½ percent to the Reading Improvement Course.

Brief statements of the topics covered in the course are given on the following pages.

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